

around a surface through which light passes, and intermediate holding members for fixing the optical element to the base member. Further, each of the intermediate holding members includes a first attaching surface which contacts with each of the side surfaces of the optical element and a second attaching surface mounted on the attaching surface of the base member and extending from the first attaching surface in a different angle. In addition, the first attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members and the side surfaces of the optical element, and the second attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members and the attaching surface of the base member are fixed by an adhesive agent.

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-17 have been canceled and Claims 18-33 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Yamaguchi et al; Claims 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al in view of official notice; Claims 2, 11, 13-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al in view of Kawakami et al; and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al in view of Umetsu.

Because Claims 1-17 have been cancelled and Claims 18-33 have been added by the present amendment, comments will be presented regarding the new claims in light of the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action regarding the previous Claims 1-17.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the outstanding Office Action indicates the subject matter was not described in the specification in such a way to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which is most nearly connected, to make and/or to use the invention. In particular, the outstanding Office Action indicates the term "rib" is not clear because it is uncertain as to what a rib is. This feature is now recited in new Claim 22, which recites that the intermediate holding members have ribs disposed between surfaces of the intermediate holding members that are opposite to the first and second attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members. This feature is shown in Figures 1 and 3, for example, and is described in the specification at page 15, lines 8-12. As shown in Figure 3A, for example, the intermediate holding members 5 have ribs 5c disposed between surfaces of the intermediate holding members 5 that are opposite to the first and second attaching surfaces 5a, 5b of the intermediate holding members 5. Thus, the mechanical strength of the intermediate holding member 5 is increased without increasing a loss of light when the ultraviolet setting adhesive material is hardened by an arrangement in which light transparent ribs 5c are made between the adhering surfaces of the intermediate holding member 5 (see page 15, line 12). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejections of the claims noted in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants note new Claim 18 is directed to a structure for fixing an optical element including a base member having an attaching surface, an optical element which is mounted on the base member and has side surfaces around a surface through which light passes, and intermediate holding members for fixing the optical element to the base member. Further, each of the intermediate holding members includes a first attaching surface which contacts with each of the side surfaces of the optical element and a second attaching surface mounted

on the attaching surface of the base member and extending from the first attaching surface in a different angle. In addition, the first attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding surface and the side surfaces of the optical element, and the second attaching surfaces of the intermediate holding members and the attaching surface of the base member are fixed by an adhesive agent. Independent Claims 28 and 31 include similar features.

In a non-limiting example, Figures 1 and 3 illustrate an optical element 3 mounted on a base member 2 and having side surfaces 3a around a surface through which light passes. The intermediate holding member 5 has a first attaching surface 5a which faces to the surface 3a, and a second attaching surface 5b which is arranged to have a different angle from the first attaching surface 5a to connect the lens 3 and the base member 2. The base member 2 has an attaching surface 2c which faces the second attaching surface 5b.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Yamaguchi et al as the primary publication. However, Yamaguchi et al discloses a stopper 46 for holding a lens barrel containing a lens 20 (see Figure 3, for example). However, the stopper 46 supports only one side of the lens barrel. The other side of the lens barrel is supported by a wall 38a formed in a lens holding member 38. Further, the stopper 46 is fixed to the lens holding member 38 by screws 48. The other publications noted in the outstanding Office Action regarding the dependent claims also do not teach or suggest the claimed features.

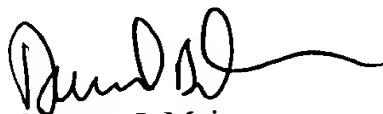
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 18, 28 and 31 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

In addition, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities and a new abstract has been added to correspond with the new claims. It is believed no new matter has been added.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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<b>Marked-Up Copy</b> Serial No: 09/888,600 Amendment Filed on: February 5, 2003
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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 13, lines 7-17, please replace the paragraph as follows:

--As shown in Fig. 1, an image data input unit 1 comprises a lens 3 as [parts] part of an optical element, an intermediate holding member 5 and a housing 2, as a base member, where the lens 3 has an edge surface 3a which is one side surrounding a light path where a light beam as image data information from a document surface passes, and the intermediate holding member 5 has a first attaching surface 5a which faces to the edge surface 3a, and a second attaching [surfaces] surface 5b which is arranged to have a different angle, in this embodiment 90 degrees, from the first attaching surface 5a to connect the lens 3 and the housing 2, and the housing 2 has [a] an attaching surface 2c which faces to the second attaching surface 5b.--

Page 13, lines 21-27, please replace the paragraph as follows:

--The aforesaid lens 3 has a flat surface 3b which is arranged on the edge surface 3a with the same diameter as shown in Fig. 2. This flat surface 3b is made by a cutting process or grinding process and it may be polished when [it need] needed. By this arrangement of the flat surface 3b made as above described, an adhering area with the first attaching surface 5a of the intermediate holding member 5 can be made larger and it can make the fixing force stronger.--

Page 14, lines 21-24, please replace the paragraph as follows:

--[The both] Both adhering surfaces of [said] the intermediate holding member 5 move slidably to follow a movement of the lens 3 by the surface tension of the adhesive material when a position of the lens is moved by the positional adjustment.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claims 18-33 (New).

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Abstract (New).